

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----160801Z 014952 /16-17

O 160234Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7369

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 2122

EXDIS

CORRECTED COPY (TEXT)

STATE FOR ARA, WHITE HOUSE FOR MARY HOYT.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, ROSALYNN)

SUBJECT: MRS. CARTER'S VISIT: PROPOSED REMARKS TO SUPREME  
ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL ON JUNE 1.

REF: STATE 104923

1. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS PROPOSED TEXT OF REMARKS FOR MRS.  
CARTER'S USE DURING JUNE 1 VISIT TO SUPREME ELECTORAL  
TRIBUNAL (TRIBUNAL SUPREMO DE ELECCIONES).

2. BEGIN TEXT QUOTE: MR. PRESIDENT (OF THE TRIBUNAL),  
MAGISTRATES, FRIENDS: I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO VISIT THIS  
UNIQUELY COSTA RICAN INSTITUTION, THE SUPREME ELECTORAL  
TRIBUNAL. WHEN JIMMY AND I VISITED COSTA RICA IN 1972 WE HEARD  
ABOUT THIS BODY. I WAS TOLD THEN THAT IT IS CALLED THE FOURTH  
BRANCH OF COSTA RICA'S GOVERNMENT. I CAN NOW UNDERSTAND WHY.

I WAS INTERESTED TO LEARN HOW YOU ARE PLANNING FOR PRESIDENTIAL,  
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CONGRESSIONAL, AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS FOR 1978. IT IS ALWAYS  
COMFORTING TO SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF FREE ELECTIONS WHEN ONE  
IS VISITING IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY. I KNOW THAT I AM AMONG KINDRED  
SPIRITS HERE, WHERE YOU LIVE AND BREATHE THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.  
I FEEL THAT I HAVE BEEN DOWN THAT ROAD WITH YOU.

MY PURPOSE IN VISITING THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL IS NOT

ONLY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ITS ROLE, IT IS ALSO TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE WORLD THAT COSTA RICA AND THE UNITED STATES SHARE A COMMON SYSTEM OF VALUES AND THE VERY PRECIOUS TRADITION OF FREE ELECTIONS. ALTHOUGH OUR ELECTORAL SYSTEMS ARE DIFFERENT IN FORM, THEY ARE THE SAME IN THE FINAL RESULT: THEY ARE THE VEHICLE FOR A FREE, TRUTHFUL, AND ACCURATE RECORDING OF THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. WITHOUT FREE ELECTIONS, THERE IS NO DEMOCRACY, NO FREEDOM FROM TYRANNY, NO REAL RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. WITHOUT FREE ELECTIONS, NO NATIONS ENJOYS LIBERTY -- NO MATTER ITS LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT.

IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT SPEECH AT THE OAS, HE OUTLINED THREE BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE NEW APPROACH THE U.S. WILL TAKE IN ITS POLICIES TOWARD THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. HE SPOKE OF A HIGH REGARD FOR THE INDIVIDUALITY AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF EACH NATION OF THE REGION, A RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE U.S. DESIRE TO PRESS FORWARD ON THE GREAT ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. I HAVE DISCUSSED ALL OF THESE WITH YOUR PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER. IT IS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE, HOWEVER, THAT THESE THEMES BE MENTIONED HERE, FOR TWO OF THEM HAVE TO DO DIRECTLY WITH THE WORK OF THIS TRIBUNAL. FIRST, AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE TRIBUNAL HAS POINTED OUT, SUFFRAGE IS ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS; IT IS MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY IN THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS. SECONDLY, THIS INSTITUTION, WHICH WATCHES OVER COSTA RICAN SUFFRAGE, IS ONE WHICH SETS OFF COSTA RICA FROM MOST OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA, AND INDEED THE WORLD, AND REFLECTS THE INDIVIDUALITY OF THIS PROUD DEMOCRACY.

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MR. PRESIDENT, MAGISTRATES, WHEN I RETURN TO WASHINGTON IT WILL BE A PLEASURE TO DESCRIBE THE ROLE AND OPERATIONS OF THIS TRIBUNAL TO PRESIDENT CARTER. THE PRESIDENT AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF IDENTIFICATION WITH COSTA RICA AS ANOTHER AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, FELLOW TO OUR OWN. I KNOW THAT HE WILL BE PLEASED TO LEARN IN DETAIL OF HOW THIS TRIBUNAL BOTH EXPRESSES AND GUARANTEES COSTA RICA'S DEMOCRATIC TRADITION. END QUOTE. KILDAY

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Subject:** MRS. CARTER'S VISIT: PROPOSED REMARKS TO SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL ON JUNE 1.  
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